

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4-6, 8-11 and 17-22 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 3 and add new Claims 23 and 24 as follows.

Claims 1 and 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A manipulator comprising:

[[a]] first and second contact portion portions opposing each other and
facing a manipulation target object;

first openings at said first contact portion,

second openings at said second contact portion, and

fluid control means for performing an operation of feeding the
manipulation target object by ejecting a fluid from each of at least one of the first openings and at
least one of the second openings behind the target object so that the ejected fluids collide to
generate a flow which pushes the manipulation target object in a forward direction.

a pressure chamber;

fluid control means for controlling pressure in said pressure chamber;

and

an opening at said contact portion, said opening communicating with
said pressure chamber, wherein

the target object is manipulated by causing said fluid control means to control inflow and/or outflow of a fluid through said opening, and wherein

the manipulator has a plurality of said contact portions at opposite positions, and

said fluid control means executes at least one of ejection of the fluid from the openings which oppose each other on both sides and are located on a side opposite to a direction in which the target object should be fed and drawing of the fluid from the openings which oppose each other on both sides and are located on the same side as the direction in which the target object should be fed.

Claims 4-22. (Cancelled).

23. (New) A manipulator comprising:

first and second contact portions opposing each other and facing a manipulation target object:

first openings at said first contact portion,

second openings at said second contact portion, and

fluid control means for controlling an attitude of the manipulation target object by ejecting a fluid from at least one of the first openings at a right side of a center of gravity of the manipulation target object and ejecting a fluid from at least one of the second

openings at a left side of the center of gravity of the manipulation target object so as to generate a couple force around the center of gravity of the manipulation target object.

24. (New) A manipulator comprising:

first and second contact portions opposing each other and facing a manipulation target object:

first openings at said first contact portion,

second openings at said second contact portion, and

fluid control means for controlling an attitude of the manipulation target object by drawing a fluid from at least one of the first openings at a right side of a center of gravity of the manipulation target object and drawing a fluid from at least one of the second openings at a left side of the center of gravity of the manipulation target object so as to generate a couple force around the center of gravity of the manipulation target object.